Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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# Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: What follow-up on respect for human rights?

**Motion for a resolution**
tabled by Mr Michael McNAMARA and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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In Resolution 1900 (2012) the Parliamentary Assembly reaffirmed its support for the definition of a "political prisoner", elaborated within the Council of Europe in 2001 by the independent experts of the Secretary General, mandated to assess cases of alleged political prisoners in Armenia and Azerbaijan in the context of their accession.

In Resolution 1917 (2013) the Assembly called on Azerbaijan to:

– review the cases of human rights defenders, activists and journalists detained on criminal charges following trials whose conformity with human rights standards has been called into question by civil society and the international community;

– use all available legal tools to release those prisoners whose detention gives rise to justified doubts and legitimate concerns;

– release on humanitarian grounds alleged political prisoners whose state of health raises concern;

– fully implement the resolutions of the Assembly related to alleged political prisoners in Azerbaijan;

Since that Resolution was passed, there has been an increase in arrests and detentions of persons active in political and public life in Azerbaijan with seven-year jail sentences handed down to two opposition politicians, Ilgar Mammadov, the leader of the Republican Alternative Movement, who is also the Director of the Council of Europe School of Political Studies in Baku, and Tofiq Yagubli, the deputy head of the Musavat Party, and the pre-trial detention of Anar Mammadli, the head of the Election Monitoring and Democratic Studies Centre (EMDS).

In the light of its forthcoming chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, it is essential to address concerns regarding the implementation of fundamental freedoms and, especially, politically motivated detention, in Azerbaijan.

The Assembly is, therefore, duty-bound to follow-up on these arrests and detentions in Azerbaijan.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

*Signed*[1]*:*

McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
ADAM Claude, Luxembourg, SOC
AMTSBERG Luise, Germany, SOC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
ANTIČEVIĆ MARINOVIĆ Ingrid, Croatia, SOC
ARIB Khadija, Netherlands, SOC
BALFE Richard, United Kingdom, EDG
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC
BESELIA Eka, Georgia, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BOROWSKI Marek, Poland, SOC
BOURZAI Bernadette, France, SOC
CHITI Vannino, Italy, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
CRAUSBY David, United Kingdom, SOC
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
DURRIEU Josette, France, SOC
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
FRÉCON Jean-Claude, France, SOC
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
GÜR Nazmi, Turkey, UEL
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HANSON Margus, Estonia, ALDE
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
HOOD Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
HOVHANNISYAN Arpine, Armenia, EPP/CD
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
KANELLI Liana, Greece, UEL
KORUN Alev, Austria, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LE BORGN' Pierre-Yves, France, SOC
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
MARJANOVIĆ Vesna, Serbia, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MICHEL Jean-Pierre, France, SOC
NEILL Robert, United Kingdom, EDG
NICOLAIDES Nicos, Cyprus, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
TRIANTAFYLLOS Konstantinos, Greece, SOC
TUIKSOO Ester, Estonia, ALDE
TURMEL Nycole, Canada

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

VALEN Snorre Serigstad, Norway, UEL
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC